United Nations S/2003/365

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 March 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 24 March 2003 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a decision adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its meeting, held at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs during its 119th regular session at the seat of its secretariat between 22 and 25 March 2003. The decision is entitled "The American/British aggression against fraternal Iraq and its implications for the security and safety of neighbouring Arab States and Arab national security" (decision No. 6266/119/2 of 24 March 2003).

I should be grateful if you would draw the attention of members of the Security Council to this letter and its annex, and ensure that both are circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya A. **Mahmassani**
Permanent Observer

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Annex to the letter dated 24 March 2003 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Decision

The American/British aggression against fraternal Iraq and its implications for the security and safety of neighbouring Arab States and Arab national security

The Council of the League of Arab States, meeting at the ministerial level at the seat of its secretariat in its 119th regular session on 24 March 2003,

Having reviewed the grave situation in the region arising from the American/British aggression against Iraq,

Pursuant to the provisions of article 6 of the Pact of the League of Arab States,

In accordance with the decisions adopted at the Beirut Summit (March 2002) and at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit in the course of its fifteenth regular meeting on 1 March 2003,

Commending the position of those members of the Security Council who rejected the logic and policy of war, as well as the position of the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the European Union and His Holiness the Pope, as well as the stands taken at the regional, international and popular levels, and the position of Christian and Islamic bodies which oppose the aggression and call for an end to that aggression and the immediate withdrawal of invading forces from Iraqi territory,

Affirming the Arab States' solidarity with Iraq and support for it in confronting the aggression,

Recalling the decision adopted at the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit on 1 March 2003, whereby the affairs of the Arab world and the evolution of order therein are a matter for the peoples of the region in accordance with their national and Arab interests, free of any foreign aggression and, in this context, the leaders deplore recurring attempts to impose changes in the region or to interfere in their internal affairs and ignore their interests and just causes,

Affirming commitment to the decision of the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit whereby Arab States must refrain from joining in any military action against the sovereignty, security, safety and territorial integrity of Iraq or any other Arab State,

In conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular, under Chapter I, with Article 1, paragraph 1, and Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4, and, under Chapter VII, with Article 51,

In accordance with the general rules of international law, particularly with respect to aggression,

Decides

1. To condemn the American/British aggression against Iraq, a State Member of the United Nations and a member of the League of Arab States;

2. To deem this aggression a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, a departure from international legitimacy, a threat to international peace and security and an act of defiance against the international community and world public opinion, which call for the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and compliance with the decisions of international legitimacy;

3. To call for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the invading American/British forces from Iraqi territory and to make them bear the material, moral and legal responsibility for this aggression;

4. To affirm commitment to the decision whereby Arab States must refrain from joining in any military action against the security and territorial integrity of Iraq or of any other Arab State, and to affirm a guarantee for the security, safety and territorial integrity of all Arab States;

5. To mandate the Arab Group at the United Nations to call for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, with a view to the adoption of a decision to halt the aggression and to secure an immediate withdrawal of the invading forces beyond the international borders of the Republic of Iraq, affirmation of respect for Iraq's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity, and a commitment by all States not to interfere in its internal affairs;

6. To mandate the Arab Group, in the event that the Security Council does not meet or fails to adopt the decision required to halt the aggression and secure withdrawal, pursuant to the contents of the paragraph above, to call for an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly to discuss the attack on Iraq, with a view to calling for an immediate halt to the attack, the withdrawal of hostile forces from all Iraq's territory and respect for its territorial integrity;

7. To consider the Council as being in permanent session and to mandate the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and provide the Council with immediate reports on further developments therein.

The State of Kuwait enters a reservation to this decision.